

In re: Arias et al.
Serial No.: 10/501,365
Filed: July 14, 2004
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REMARKS

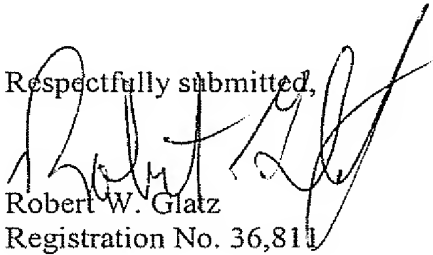
Applicants appreciate the thorough examination of the present application as evidenced by the Office Action, including the allowance of Claims 9-15 and indication of patentable subject matter in Claims 2-6. Applicants have amended the claims above to place this case in form for allowance.

Claim 2 has been amended to independent form above, incorporating the recitations from previously pending Claim 1. Claims 1 and 7-8, which depended on Claim 1 have been canceled. Accordingly, Applicants submit the obviousness rejections of Claims 1, 7 and 8 have been obviated. Accordingly, the present case is now in form for allowance.

Conclusion

In light of the above amendments and remarks, Applicants respectfully submit that the above-entitled application is now in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration of this application is respectfully requested. If, in the opinion of the Examiner, a telephonic conference would expedite the examination of this matter, the Examiner is invited to call the undersigned attorney at (919) 854-1400.

Respectfully submitted,

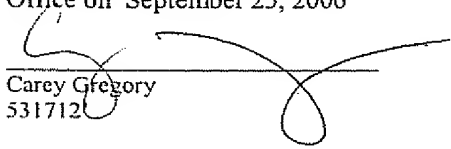

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CERTIFICATION OF TRANSMISSION UNDER 37 CFR § 1.8

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being transmitted electronically to the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office on September 25, 2006


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